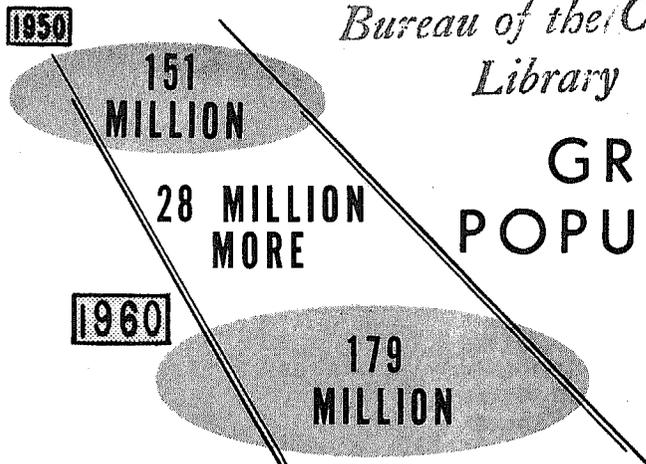


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Bureau of the Census
Library

**OUR
GROWING
POPULATION**

*Census
to
1960
1930
1960*

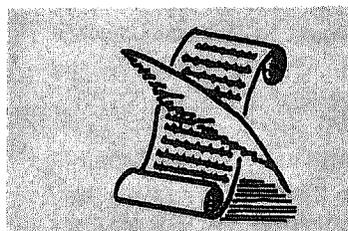


The 1960 census takers counted over 179 million people—some 28 million more than were counted by census takers 10 years before. The increase is the greatest by far in any 10-year census period in our history and represents more people than were counted in any census before 1860.

Provision for a regular census, to be taken every 10 years, was made by our Founding Fathers in the United States Constitution, as approved by the States in 1788. The first census was taken in 1790 and succeeding ones in the years ending in "0." The census taken in 1960, therefore, was the 18th decennial census of population.

STEADY GROWTH SINCE 1790

Census figures show that our population has increased during every 10-year period from 1790 to 1960 (see Table 1).



The percent, or rate, of increase was very high during the early years of our Government when the population was small. Each census from 1800 to 1860 showed gains of more than 32 percent. Thereafter our population continued to grow but at a slower pace. This is quite apparent when we compare the very early period, 1790-1800, with the 1950's. The Census of 1800 showed an increase of somewhat over 1 million people or some 35 percent over 1790. The 1960 Census, on the other hand, with its 28 million gain over 1950, represented an 18½-percent increase. The rise, however, is the greatest rate increase since the 21 percent registered in the 1910 Census.

In total numbers, as well, the increases have been striking. With only a few exceptions the increase in population shown in each census report from 1800 on has been greater than the preceding one. And

TABLE 1.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: 1790 TO 1960

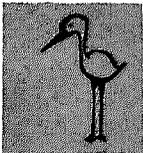
[Includes Alaska since 1870 and Hawaii since 1900]

Census Year	Population	Increase Over Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1960.	179,323,175	27,997,377	18.5
1950.	151,325,798	19,161,229	14.5
1940.	132,164,569	8,961,945	7.3
1930.	123,202,624	17,181,087	16.2
1920.	106,021,537	13,793,041	15.0
1910.	92,228,496	16,016,328	21.0
1900.	76,212,168	12,233,402	21.0
1890.	62,979,766	12,790,557	25.5
1880.	50,189,209	11,630,838	30.2
1870.	38,558,371	7,115,050	22.6
1860.	31,443,321	8,251,445	35.6
1850.	23,191,876	6,122,423	35.9
1840.	17,069,453	4,203,433	32.7
1830.	12,866,020	3,227,567	33.5
1820.	9,638,453	2,398,572	33.1
1810.	7,239,881	1,931,398	36.4
1800.	5,308,483	1,379,269	35.1
1790.	3,929,214		

the exceptions, it should be noted, occurred during periods of great stress in our country's history. The 1870 and 1920 Censuses covered periods when the Nation was at war. The 1940 Census encompassed most of the period that has been called the great depression. Oddly, the 1950 Census, which covered the years of the Second World War, showed a great increase in population—it showed, in fact, the second greatest increase in numbers in our history.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Basically how quickly or how slowly the population grows depends on the number of births and deaths taking place. Unfortunately, records for the country as a whole on this subject do not extend very far back. Population experts have estimated, however, that during the early years of the last century, before such figures were collected, there were 55 births and 25 deaths each year for every 1,000 persons in the population. This unusually high difference of 30 had dropped to 15 by 1900 and to a low of 7 during the years of widespread unemployment and depression in the 1930's. Since 1940 the trend has been upward, and in 1960 the addition to the population once again stood at 15 (24 births and 9 deaths per 1,000 population). Main factors in this trend were the birth of 41 million babies and 16 million deaths during the 1950's.



IMMIGRATION

Until the last 40 years population increases were due both to the excess of births over deaths and to the large number of immigrants. The number of people admitted to the United States from other countries during the late 1800's and early 1900's was high both in actual numbers and in proportion to the population (see Table 2).

During the 1881-90 period over 5 million people flocked to our shores. This number represents a large part of the increase of nearly 13 million reported in the 1890 Census. From 1901 through 1910 almost 9 million immigrants were admitted. This is the highest total in our history. The immigration figure for the 10 years that followed was 3 million less but was large enough to be second highest.

TABLE 2.—IMMIGRATION: 1820 TO 1960

Period	Immigrants	Period	Immigrants
1820-30.....	151,824	1901-10.....	8,795,386
1831-40.....	599,125	1911-20.....	5,735,811
1841-50.....	1,713,251	1921-30.....	4,107,209
1851-60.....	2,598,214	1931-40.....	528,431
1861-70.....	2,314,824	1941-50.....	1,035,039
1871-80.....	2,812,191	1951-60.....	2,515,479
1881-90.....	5,246,613	Total:	
1891-1900.....	3,687,564	1820-1960.....	41,840,961

Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Not all the immigrants remained here. Many returned to their homeland; some left for other countries; a small number were deported. By far the greatest number, however, did remain, and they and their offspring now constitute a substantial part of the population.

Until the 1920's immigration was almost unrestricted. In 1921 Congress passed a law limiting the number of immigrants from countries outside the Western Hemisphere. Since that year immigration has become a much less important element in our population growth.





POPULATION AND LAND EXPANSION

The expansion of national territory has had a significant part in our population growth. The opportunities for bettering one's life and for living independently offered by plentiful land easy to obtain encouraged many people to move westward, to marry young, and to raise families. The same opportunities brought many people here from foreign countries.

In 1790 the gross area of the United States was approximately 900,000 square miles or about one-quarter of its present size (see Table 3). The settled area, however, covered only 240,000 square miles. The thickly populated areas were along the Atlantic Coast and in the valleys of the large rivers. The western part of the country seemed so vast and the facilities for transportation and communication so meager that Thomas Jefferson predicted it would be a thousand years before the country as far west as the Mississippi would be thickly settled.

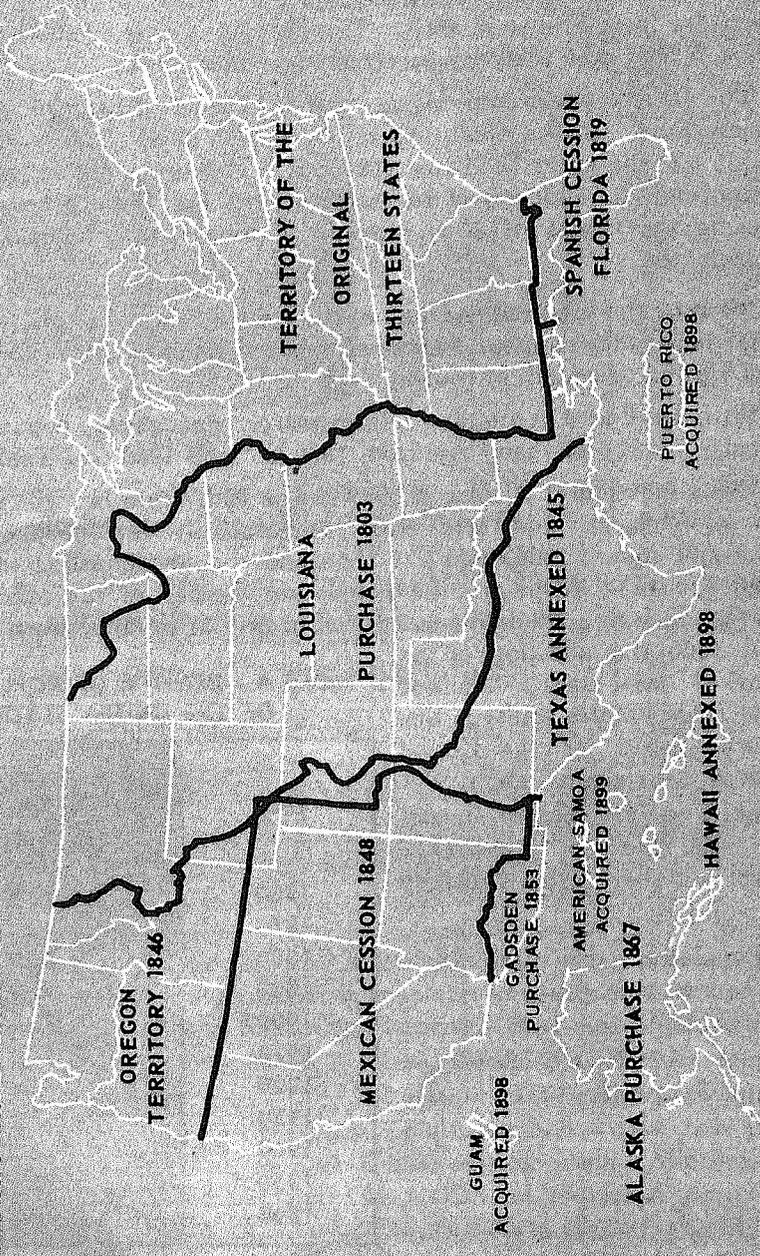
The population density for any geographic area shows the average number of people—men, women, and children—per square mile of land within its boundaries. This figure is arrived at by dividing the number of people living in the area by the number of square miles within its boundaries. This can be done for small places, such as towns or villages, or for a large area, such as the United States.

TABLE 3.—TERRITORIAL EXPANSION OF THE UNITED STATES

Territory	Year	Land and Water Area (Square Miles)	Territory	Year	Land and Water Area (Square Miles)
Territory in 1790		888,811	Oregon	1846	285,580
Louisiana Purchase	1803	827,192	Mexican Cession	1848	529,017
Spanish Cession: Florida	1819	58,560	Gadsden Purchase	1853	29,640
Other Areas	1819	13,443	Alaska Purchase	1867	586,400
Texas	1845	390,144	Hawaii	1898	6,419
			Total: U.S. Area	1960	3,615,206

Note: Figures exclude Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, possessions, trust territories and leaseholds.

TERRITORIAL EXPANSION OF THE UNITED STATES





In 1790 there were between 4 and 5 persons to each square mile of territory in the United States. By 1800, with the population rising but the total land area remaining the same, the density rose to 6 per square mile. Despite a continued rise in the population, the 1810 density figure dropped to 4 as a result of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. This brought in over 800,000 square miles of land area with comparatively few inhabitants.

The density figure kept rising until 1840 when it reached 10 per square mile. In the 1850 Census it dropped to 8. This was the result of the entry of Texas (1845) and California (1850) to the Union and the addition of territories in the Far West which later became the States of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Washington.

By 1860 the shape of the map of the United States was just about what it is today; our land area had reached its outer limits (Alaska and Hawaii excepted, of course).

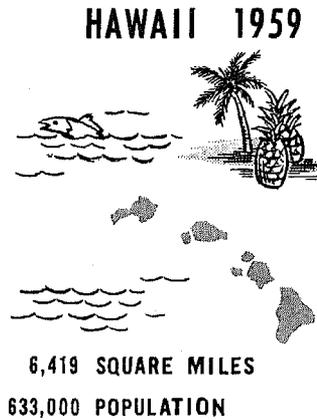
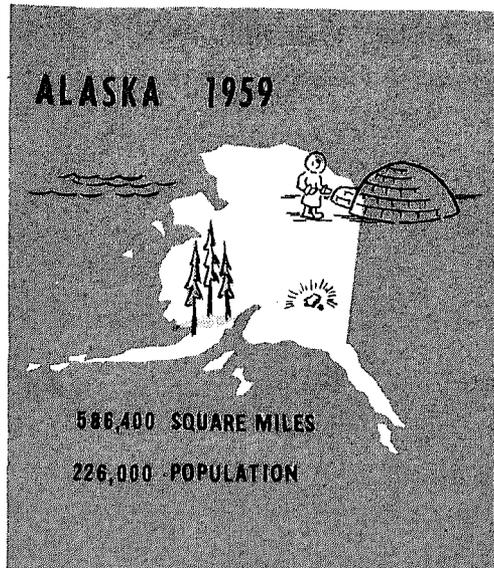
With land area remaining approximately unchanged, population density showed a steady rise from 1860 through 1950 (see Table 4).

The admission of Alaska in 1959 as the 49th State brought in an extremely large land area with comparatively few people—571 thousand square miles and 226 thousand people (according to the 1960 Census). Although the population density in the other 48 States taken as a whole increased from nearly 51 to 60 between 1950 and 1960, the addition of the Alaskan land mass to that of the other States caused the overall figure for the United States to remain about the same. The admission of Hawaii in 1959 had no appreciable effect on the Nation's density of population.

Population densities differ, of course, from State to State. For example the 1960 Census figures show Rhode Island had about 812 persons to the square mile and Alaska had less than 1—actually only 1 person to every 2½ square miles. New Jersey and Nevada are another

TABLE 4.— DENSITY OF POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Year	Population per Square Mile of Land Area
1860	10.6
1870	13.4
1880	16.9
1890	21.2
1900	25.6
1910	31.0
1920	35.6
1930	41.2
1940	44.2
1950	50.7
1960	50.5



pair of opposites with 800 and 2½ persons, respectively.

And, of course, the density of population in cities is considerably greater than for States. The 1960 density figure for New York City was 25,000 per square mile (for Manhattan Borough within the city, it was 77,000). For Chicago in 1960, the density was 17,000 per square mile, and for Detroit and St. Louis, 12,000 each.

STATE POPULATION INCREASES

In 1790, among the original 13 States, Virginia had by far the most people, 692,000. Pennsylvania was second with 434,000 and New York, fifth, with 340,000. Delaware had the fewest people, 59,000.

By 1820, when the fourth census was taken, the number of States had increased to 23, and New York had assumed its dominant role as the Nation's population leader with nearly 1½ million residents. Pennsylvania still retained its second position with over a million while Virginia dropped to third place with slightly under a million inhabitants. Movement of people westward was shown by the populations of Ohio and Kentucky—each with over half a million inhabitants. Illinois, newly added to the Union in 1818, was at the bottom in rank with 55,000.

Although the West was growing, the East continued to grow, too. On the eve of the Civil War, the 1860 Census reported that 11 of the now 33 States in the Union had passed the million mark in population. Six of these 11 were west of the original 13 States. Nevertheless, New York and Pennsylvania with nearly 4 million and 3 million



TABLE 5.—POPULATION BY STATES: 1900 AND 1960

State	1900	1960	Percent Increase 1900-60
United States, total	76,212,168	179,323,175	135.5
Alabama	1,828,697	3,266,740	78.6
Alaska	63,592	226,167	253.1
Arizona	122,931	1,302,161	958.5
Arkansas	1,311,564	1,786,272	36.1
California	1,485,053	15,717,204	958.4
Colorado	539,700	1,753,947	224.8
Connecticut	908,420	2,535,234	179.2
Delaware	184,735	446,292	141.1
District of Columbia	278,718	763,956	173.8
Florida	528,542	4,951,560	836.1
Georgia	2,216,331	3,943,116	77.9
Hawaii	154,001	632,772	311.0
Idaho	161,772	667,191	311.7
Illinois	4,821,550	10,081,158	109.1
Indiana	2,516,462	4,662,498	85.3
Iowa	2,231,853	2,757,537	23.6
Kansas	1,470,495	2,178,611	48.2
Kentucky	2,147,174	3,038,156	41.5
Louisiana	1,381,625	3,257,022	135.7
Maine	694,466	969,265	39.6
Maryland	1,188,044	3,100,689	161.0
Massachusetts	2,805,346	5,148,578	83.6
Michigan	2,420,982	7,823,194	223.1
Minnesota	1,751,394	3,413,864	95.0
Mississippi	1,551,270	2,178,141	40.4
Missouri	3,106,665	4,319,813	39.0
Montana	243,329	674,767	177.8
Nebraska	1,066,300	1,411,330	32.2
Nevada	42,335	285,278	578.6
New Hampshire	411,588	606,921	47.3
New Jersey	1,883,669	6,066,782	222.0
New Mexico	195,310	951,023	387.7
New York	7,268,894	16,782,304	130.9
North Carolina	1,893,810	4,556,155	140.5
North Dakota	319,146	632,446	98.1
Ohio	4,157,545	9,706,397	133.4
Oklahoma	790,391	2,328,284	194.7
Oregon	413,536	1,768,687	327.3
Pennsylvania	6,302,115	11,319,366	79.6
Rhode Island	428,556	859,488	100.2
South Carolina	1,340,316	2,382,594	77.8
South Dakota	401,570	680,514	69.4
Tennessee	2,020,616	3,567,089	76.5
Texas	3,048,710	9,579,677	214.2
Utah	276,749	890,627	221.7
Vermont	343,641	389,881	13.4
Virginia	1,854,184	3,966,949	114.0
Washington	518,103	2,853,214	450.8
West Virginia	958,800	1,860,421	94.0
Wisconsin	2,069,042	3,951,777	91.0
Wyoming	92,531	330,066	254.8

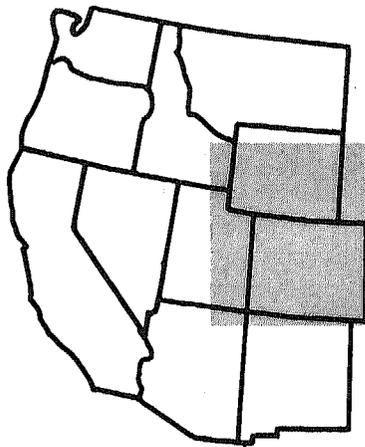
inhabitants, respectively, were far ahead of the western leaders, Ohio and Illinois, which ranked third and fourth nationally. Oregon, admitted to statehood in 1859, was lowest ranked with 52,000 persons.

At the turn of the century the total number of States stood at 45. Of the 10 States leading in population, as shown by the Census of 1900, only 3 were in the East. New York and Pennsylvania, with well over 7 million and 6 million each, remained in the vanguard. Massachusetts was seventh in rank. California, with 1½ million, was 21st (see Table 5).

Half a century later the 1950 Census showed New York's population, double that of 1900, still high for the country. California, however, was now second with 10½ million and Pennsylvania, bowing to the surging West for the first time since 1830, a close third. Only 14 of the 48 States showed fewer than a million inhabitants.

Between 1950 and 1960 the overall increase in population resulted from gains in 47 States, including Alaska and Hawaii, which offset losses in Arkansas, Mississippi, and West Virginia.

Greatest gains in the last decade were made by California with 5 million, moving it into a clearcut second place among the States; and



THE POPULATION OF THE WEST INCREASED 8 MILLION BETWEEN 1950 AND 1960





by Florida with a 2-million increase and a jump in rank from 20th to 10th place. Florida also showed the greatest proportionate gain as compared with its population of 1950. It had a 79-percent increase. In all, 17 States in 1960 showed gains of 20 percent or more over 1950.

The 1960 Census showed that with respect to growth by regions the West continued to lead. Between 1950 and 1960 only the West, among the Nation's four regions, exceeded the national rate of gain. The West's percent of increase was 39 (see Table 6) as compared with 18½ percent for the country as a whole.

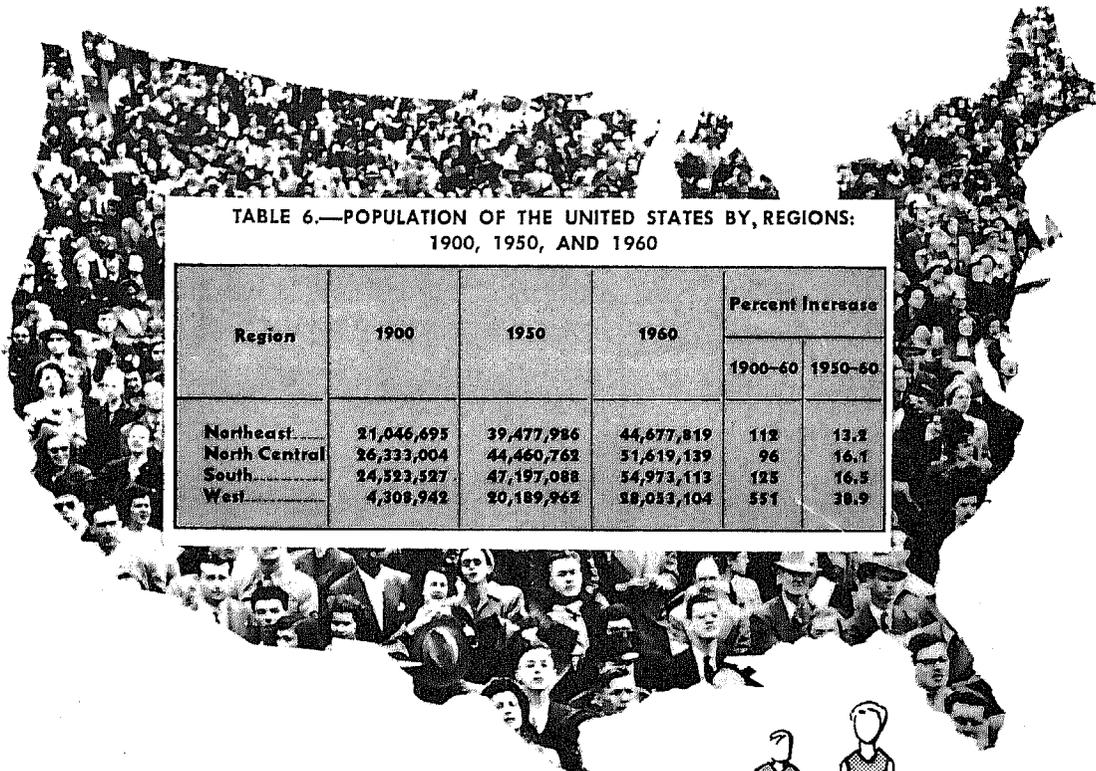
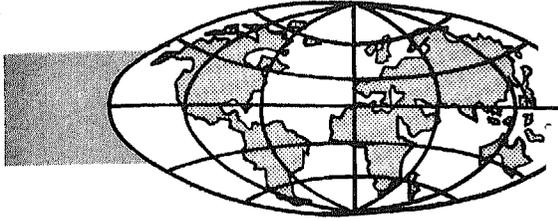


TABLE 6.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES BY REGIONS:
1900, 1950, AND 1960

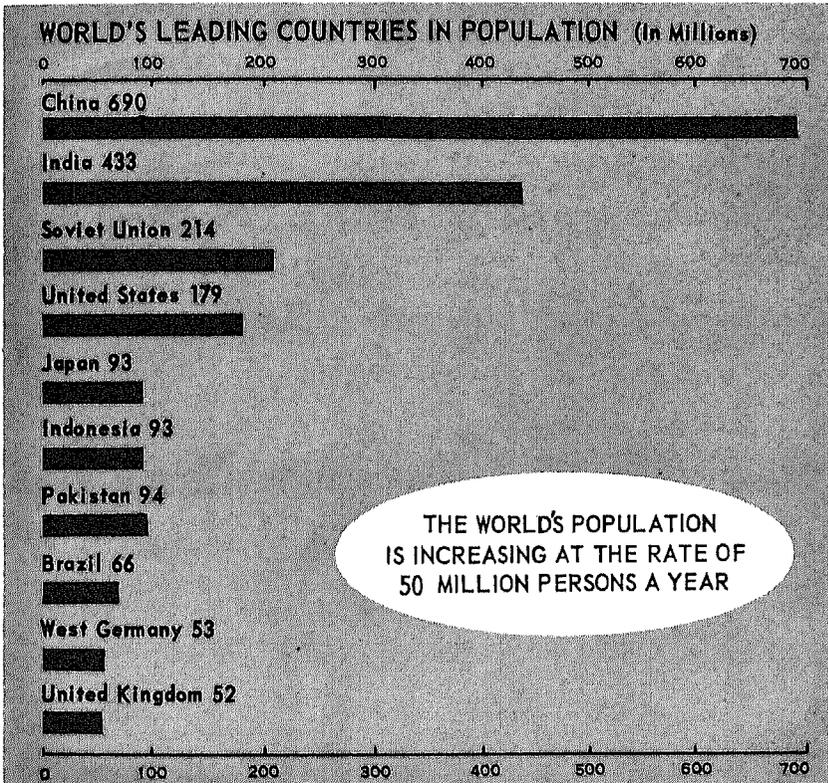
Region	1900	1950	1960	Percent Increase	
				1900-60	1950-60
Northeast.....	21,046,695	39,477,986	44,677,819	112	13.2
North Central.....	26,333,004	44,460,762	51,619,139	96	16.1
South.....	24,523,527	47,197,088	54,973,113	123	16.5
West.....	4,308,942	20,189,962	38,033,104	551	38.9





Recent estimates made by population experts indicate that there are nearly 3 billion people in the world. The estimates indicate, too, that world population is increasing by about 50 million a year.

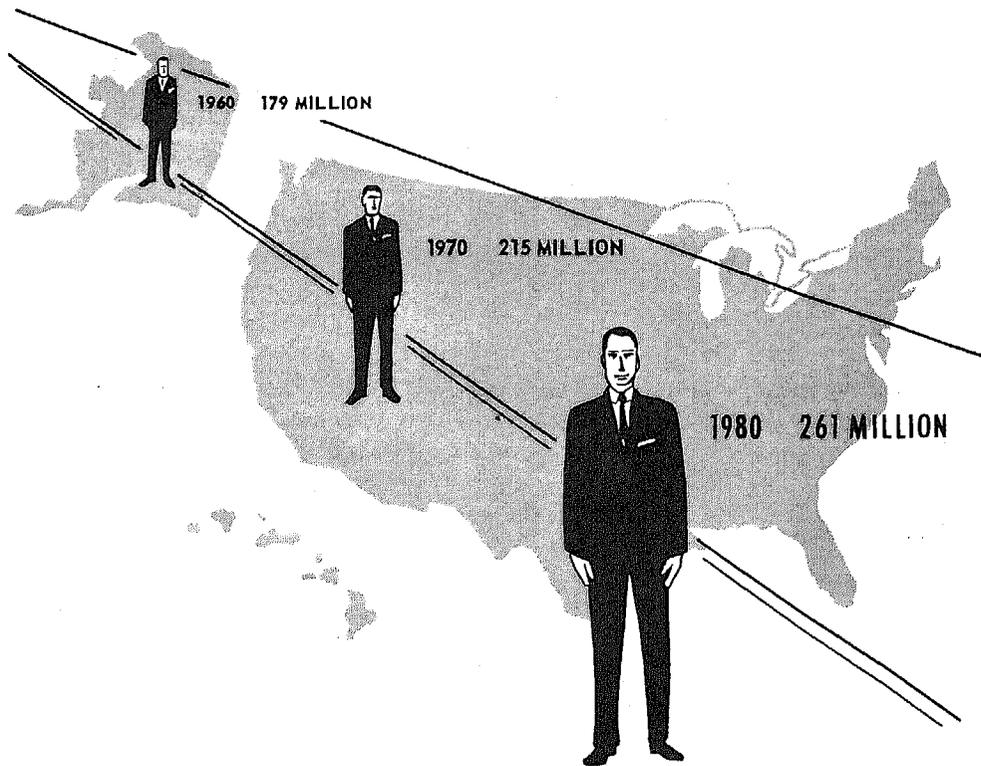
About half of the world's people live in four countries: China (mainland), India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Russia), and the United States, in that order. In mid-1960, China had a population of 690 million; India, 433 million; the Soviet Union, 214 million; and the United States, 179 million. Next in order of population are Japan, 93 million; Indonesia, 93 million; Pakistan, 94 million; Brazil, 66 million; West Germany, 53 million; and United Kingdom, 52 million.





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The population of the United States—and of the world in general, for that matter—is rising at a rapid rate. The Census Bureau prepares estimates of what our population may be in the years ahead. Such estimates are called projections because they apply to the future. Census Bureau projections are based on different population conditions. For instance, one set of projections may be based on a continuation of the present rate of births; a second set, on more births; and so on. One set of projections indicates our population will reach 215 million by 1970 and 261 million by 1980. How rapidly the population of a nation grows may often be taken as a sign of its vigor and health. The Census Bureau projections point to continued American progress in the future.



WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Readers seeking more extensive and detailed information on the Nation's population may wish to consult the final reports of the 1960 Census of Population. These reports will be available, as they are published, in most large public libraries. They may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Information on the content and the prices of the various reports of the 1960 Census of Population is available upon request to the Publication Distribution Section, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census. Our Growing Population.
Graphic Pamphlets, GP 60-1, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington D.C. 1961